

### **REMARKS**

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Final Office Action dated August 13, 2003 ("the Action"). Claims 1-80 are pending in the application.

#### **Allowed Claims**

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation, the Examiner's allowance of Claims 21, 22, 24-58 and 72-78.

#### **Allowable Subject Matter**

Applicants also acknowledge with appreciation, the Examiner's statement that Claims 71 and 80 recite allowable subject matter and would be allowed if amended to incorporate the base and any intervening claims. Instead, Applicants have canceled Claim 71 and incorporated the subject matter into its base claim, Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-20 and 69, 70, which depend from Claim 1, are in condition for allowance. Similarly, Claim 80 has been canceled and the subject matter incorporated into its base claim, Claim 59. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 59-68 and 79 are in condition for allowance.

#### **The Obviousness Rejections**

Applicants note for the record that they disagree with the Examiner's obviousness rejections but have amended the claims as noted to advance prosecution. In addition, Applicants submit that the dependent claims recite independently patentable subject matter. However, in light of the allowability of the subject matter in the independent claims and in the interest of brevity, the independently patentable subject matter of the dependent claims will not be discussed further herein.

#### **Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)**

Out of an abundance of caution, Applicants are submitting concurrently herewith a


Attorney Docket No.: 9099-6  
Application Serial No.: 09/919,395  
Filed: July 31, 2001  
Page 16 of 16

Supplemental IDS in order to form a more complete record. Applicants request that the Examiner consider the references and return Examiner-initialed copies of the form's PTO-1449 filed therewith, acknowledging such consideration of the references cited therein.

**CONCLUSION**

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance and the same is earnestly solicited. Examiner is encourage to telephone the undersigned at 919-854-1400 for resolution of any outstanding issues.

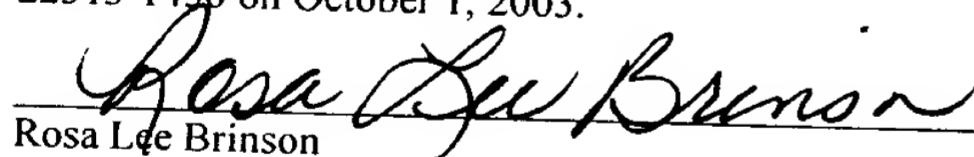
Respectfully submitted,

  
Julie H. Richardson  
Registration No. 40,142

**USPTO Customer No. 20792**  
Myers Bigel Sibley & Sajovec  
Post Office Box 37428  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27627  
Telephone: 919/854-1400  
Facsimile: 919/854-1401

**Certificate of Mailing under 37 CFR 1.8 (or 1.10)**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on October 1, 2003.

  
Rosa Lee Brinson